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COUNTY BOROUGH OF DUDLEY.

ANNUAL REPORT

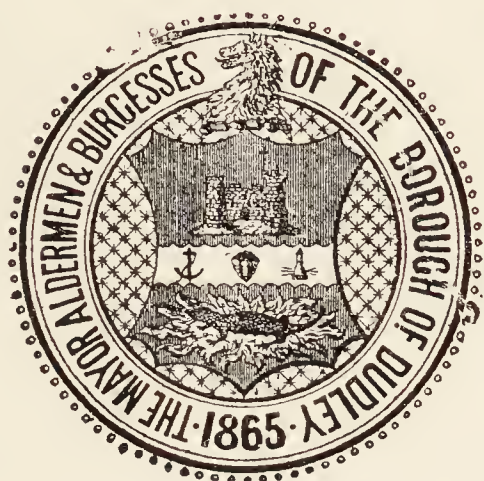
on the work of the

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES, 1943



W. K. DUNSCOMBE, M.D., D.P.H.,
Temporary Medical Officer of Health and
School Medical Officer.

SIDNEY SKITT, F.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., M.Inst.P.C.
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“ The Firs,”

Dudley.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the County Borough of Dudley.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In submitting the Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1943 it will be appreciated that in accordance with the Ministry of Health request it has again been kept brief.

Although it is difficult to comment on events which occurred before the present temporary holder of the post of Medical Officer of Health took up duty, certain points deserve notice on general principles. They are:—

(1) The relatively high infant mortality. No area with the status of a County Borough can be satisfied with an infant mortality rate of 67.5 per 1,000, even though it is accompanied by a gratifying reduction in the stillbirth rate over last year.

(2) The maternal mortality is slightly increased over last year, and though that was perhaps low for an area such as this, we cannot be complacent.

(3) There has been a strong demand for maternity home accommodation which, though accentuated no doubt at the present time by virtue of the fact that for home confinements prospective mothers cannot get anyone to look after them, must be taken into account as a permanent feature in any post-war planning of maternity services.

The position here is further commented on in the text.

(4) **Tuberculosis.** Full details for this area will no doubt be given in the annual report of the Medical Officer of the Staffordshire, Wolverhampton and Dudley Joint Board, but it is important to mention here that the number on the register increased substantially over last year. It is probably being optimistic to imagine that this rise is only temporary, and we can only hope most sincerely that the long hours worked by munition workers and many others, coupled with lack of fresh air and change, will not have the effect of increasing the incidence that may be expected.

(5) **Housing.** Although one appreciates that war needs come first, the housing shortage all through the country is now so acute that it cannot be overtaken for many years. In this area it is most serious, though the Council, along with many other Local Authorities, is only too anxious to get ahead with the building of suitable houses. It is all the more unfortunate, therefore, that the various Government departments which have to deal with this essential problem have not been able to lay down a uniform policy which could be passed to the Local Authorities for action.

(6) **Venereal Disease.** By the end of 1943 we had had nearly a complete year of the working of Regulation 33B, and it must be stated at once that it has proved quite inadequate to deal with the problem.

The main weakness of the present scheme is that it does nothing to prevent defaulting when under treatment, unless the person concerned has been issued with a Form 2 under the above Regulation. To remedy this, the Ministry's present rather weak-kneed policy should be replaced by something which pays a great deal more attention to the rights of the public as a whole as compared with the rights of individuals, which in these cases may mean the "right" to infect others.

An amendment to the Regulation is therefore urgently necessary, designed to ensure that all persons diagnosed by approved methods as suffering from venereal disease in an infectious form, are compelled to continue treatment until cured on pain of prosecution for default, and also that they are not allowed to marry while subject to this "instruction."

(7) **Staff Changes.** The large number of changes in the Medical and Nursing staffs has most seriously handicapped the work of the department. This should be borne in mind when considering the actual figures of the work done.

It is impossible to close this introductory letter without a reference to the serious loss the department sustained by the retirement through illness of Dr. Wight. For several years he had worked in the department and had impressed everyone with his ability, keenness and capacity for hard work, and the very happy relations existing between him and the other members of the department are concrete evidence of the esteem in which he is held. His resignation, therefore, after acting as Medical Officer of Health for many months, gravely affected the work of the department and was received with profound regret.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE,
Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Population—Registrar-General's estimate, mid-1943 ... 58,500
 Births ... 1,186 Rate 20.27 Deaths ... 766 Rate 13.1
 Livebirths 1,155 M. 590 F. 565 Males ... 415
 Stillbirths 31 M. 15 F. 16 Females... 351
 The illegitimate births numbered 19 males and 16 females.
 The stillbirth rate was 26.1 per 1,000 total births.

Infant Mortality Rate.

78 children under the age of 12 months died, giving a rate of 67.5 per 1,000.

The following table gives the Infant Mortality rate in the 10 years 1934—43. The Dudley rate is considerably higher than that for England and Wales, or for the County Boroughs and great towns. These rates are given below for comparison.

	England and Wales.	County Boroughs and Great Towns.	Dudley.
1943 ...	49	58	67.5

Dudley Infant Mortality Rate for past 10 years.

1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
81.2	66.0	71.1	79.6	46.3	70.4	72.3	67.0	58.8	67.5

Maternal Mortality Rate.

England and Wales ...	2.29	Dudley ...	2.5
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Death Rate.

England and Wales.	County Boroughs and Great Towns.	Dudley.
12.1	14.2	13.1

The following table shows the causes of death during 1943:—

Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Ttl.
1. Typhoid and Para-typhoid ...	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	2	1	3
3. Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough ...	1	—	1
5. Diphtheria ...	5	7	12
6. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	28	18	46
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	2	2	4
8. Syphilitic Diseases ...	2	2	4
9. Influenza ...	11	13	24
10. Measles ...	1	1	2
11. Acute Poliomyelitis and Polio- encephalitis ...	—	—	—
12. Acute Infective Encephalitis ...	—	—	—
13. Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oeso- phagus (m) ...	9	6	15
Uterus (f)			

14.	Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	...	15	8	23
15.	Cancer of Breast	... ..	1	12	13
16.	Cancer of all other sites	... ..	25	17	42
17.	Diabetes	... ..	2	5	7
18.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	...	31	38	69
19.	Heart Disease	... ..	97	78	175
20.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	16	17	33
21.	Bronchitis	... ..	34	29	63
22.	Pneumonia	... ..	33	19	52
23.	Other Respiratory Diseases	... ..	5	8	13
24.	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	...	6	1	7
25.	Diarrhoea under 2 years	... ..	3	4	7
26.	Appendicitis	... ..	1	—	1
27.	Other Digestive Diseases	... ..	4	4	8
28.	Nephritis	... ..	7	13	20
29.	Puerperal and Post-abort. Sepsis.	...	—	—	—
30.	Other Maternal Causes	... ..	—	3	3
31.	Premature Birth	... ..	12	5	17
32.	Congenital Malformation, Birth In-				
	juries, Infant Diseases	... ..	12	11	23
33.	Suicide	... ..	7	1	8
34.	Road Traffic Accidents	... ..	8	1	9
35.	Other Violent Causes	... ..	7	—	7
36.	All other Causes	... ..	28	27	55
	Totals	... ..	415	351	766

The following table shows the ten chief causes of death in the Borough:—

	Cause of Death.	M.	F.	Ttl.
1.	Heart Disease	97	78	175
2.	Cancer	50	43	93
3.	Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	31	38	69
4.	Bronchitis	34	29	63
5.	Pneumonia	33	19	52
6.	Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	28	18	46
7.	Premature Births	24	16	40
	Congenital Malformation			
	Birth Injury			
8.	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	16	17	33
9.	Influenza	11	13	24
10.	Nephritis	7	13	20

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Of the large number of births recorded, in several instances delivery took place in the house, when actually, by reason of unsatisfactory home conditions or of the fact that there was no-one to look after the mother, delivery should have occurred in a Maternity Home. Thus the lack of adequate maternity home accommodation, at fees the poorer people can afford to pay, is a serious matter, though to their credit the Council tried hard to get

this state of things altered, even to the extent of preparing plans for the conversion of a large private house into a home of 10 beds, and sending the proposals to the Ministry of Health. They, however, did not agree to the suggestions and eventually an arrangement was made with the Staffordshire County Council for the use of 10 beds in the Rosemary Ednam Maternity Home and its extension, but this had not come into effect at the end of 1943.

The death of the Council's Obstetric Consultant, Sir Beckwith Whitehouse, was a severe blow to all in the area who had benefited by his skill and inspiring teaching.

The following figures summarise the work done in this supremely important branch of the department's activities.

Midwifery.

976 patients were delivered at home, of which 799 were midwives' cases. In 352 cases medical aid was sought, the percentage being thus 44.

49 births occurred in Maternity Homes and 40 complicated cases were sent to hospital under the Council's Scheme.

3 maternal deaths occurred. This gives a rate of 2.5 per 1,000 total births (live and still) and is higher than the rate for England and Wales. A great duty lies on us all to ensure that adequate maternity hospital facilities are available for cases needing hospital treatment, and also to see that all possible delay in taking advantage of these facilities is obviated.

Stillbirths show an important reduction as compared with a rate of 30.2 in 1942, the rate is only 26.1 per 1,000 total births, which is very good indeed. It is important to note that the emphasis now laid on ante-natal care should show a reduction of this rate over pre-war years that is both considerable and permanent.

Infant Mortality. The death rate for infants under 1 year is 67.5 per 1,000 and a comment on this too high rate is made in the introduction.

The following table gives some idea of the effect that prematurity, congenital defects, etc., have on the chance of survival:—

Number of deaths occurring:—				
1 week or under.	1 wk.—1 mth.	1—3 mths.	3—6 mths.	6—12 mths.
22	9	20	10	17

Clinics—(a) Ante-Natal.

The number of persons attending the ante-natal clinics continued to increase—a very good sign—but those attending the post-natal clinics were disappointingly few. Intensive education as to the value of such clinics is urgently necessary. 783 persons attended the ante-natal clinics, making in all 3,238 attendances. Only 12 patients attended the post-natal clinics, making in all 15 attendances.

(b) Child Welfare.

Here the number of attendances of children under 1 year has increased, while those for children from 1—5 years have shown a material reduction. It is not enough for a child to attend more or less regularly in its first year of life if there is no intention of bringing it to the clinic subsequently. The only way this form of inertia can be overcome is by repeated visiting, for which an adequate staff of health visitors is essential.

The following are the figures:—

		Total Attendances.	
		1942.	1943.
Children under 1 year ...	...	19,997	23,490
Children between 1 & 5 years ...		3,706	2,886
		<hr/>	<hr/>
		23,703	26,376
		<hr/>	<hr/>

War-time Nurseries.

The three war-time nurseries have functioned all the year and have been fully occupied.

Work of the Health Visitors.

The following figures summarise the work of the Health Visitors for the year:—

Visits to children under one year:

(a) First visits	...	...	...	...	999
(b) Total visits	...	...	...	...	4,526
Visits to children between 1 and 5 years				...	7,697
Pre-natal visits	...	...	...	...	208
Stillbirth investigations	...	...	...	...	21
Infant death visits	...	...	...	...	72
Ophthalmia neonatorum visits	...	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous visits	...	...	...	...	1,936

Orthopaedic Clinic.

290 attendances were made for orthopaedic treatment and 1,656 for massage. At the Ultra-violet Ray Clinics the children made 601 attendances.

Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic.

Children under 5 made 42 attendances, and 23 operations were performed.

Dental Clinics.

The following table gives the treatment figures for 1943 for mothers and children.

	Dudley.	Priory.	Netherton.	Ttl.
Number of mothers attending ...	103	68	21	192
Subsequent attendance by mothers	36	36	3	75
Number of pre-natal attendances	17	11	7	35
Subsequent pre-natal attendances	1	1	—	2
Number of pre-school children attending	35	21	13	69
Subsequent attendances by pre-school children	9	3	4	16
Total attendances ...	201	140	48	389
Permanent fillings	17	—	—	17
Temporary fillings	—	2	—	2
Permanent extractions	240	215	57	512
Temporary extractions	47	23	17	87
Nitrous oxide anaesthesia ...	165	122	47	334
Other operations, permanent ...	20	13	—	33
Other operations, temporary ...	5	4	1	10

During the twelve months ending December, 1943, 389 attendances were made at the clinics for dental treatment. 93 of them attended on more than one occasion, making a total of 296 individual cases. The majority of these attendances were made at the Firs Clinic, viz., 201; of the remainder, 140 were made at the Priory and 48 at the Netherton clinics. Patients from the Holly Hall district were treated at the Firs and are included in that total.

Scabies.

A total of 843 persons of all ages received treatment at the welfare clinics and sanitary depot, but a number of these were probably cases of relapse or re-infection.

Mental Deficiency.

Little is required to be recorded about this branch of the department's work, except to emphasise again the shortage of accommodation, which has become almost desperate, with the result that many cases have to be placed under supervision for whom, in point of fact, orders placing them in institutions would be by far the better policy. It is most earnestly to be hoped, therefore, that as soon as there is any chance of increased accommodation the Board of Control will bestir themselves to ensure that it is made available at the earliest possible moment. In any event there is undoubtedly a strong case for lifting the burden of mental deficiency from the local authorities, and, with the exception of certification, placing it upon the central government.

The following table gives the annual figures furnished to the Board of Control:—

A.—Number of Mental Defectives ascertained to be “subject to be dealt with”:—

1.—Under “ Order ”:—	M.	F.	Ttl.
(a) (1) In Institutions (excl. cases on Licence):—			
Under 16	2	—	2
Age 16 and over	24	27	51
(2) On Licence from Institutions:—			
Under 16	—	—	—
Age 16 and over	1	3	4
(b) (1) Under Guardianship (excl. cases on Licence):—			
Under 16	1	—	1
Age 16 and over	—	3	3
(2) On Licence from Guardianship:—			
Under 16	1	—	1
Age 16 and over	—	—	—
2.—In “ places of safety ”:—			
Under 16	—	—	—
Age 16 and over	—	—	—
3.—Under Statutory Supervision	40	51	91
Of whom, awaiting removal to an Institution	4	1	5
4.—Action not yet taken under any one of the above headings	18	18	36
B.—Number of mental defectives not at present “ subject to be dealt with,” but for whom the Local Authority may subsequently become liable:—			
1.—In Institutions or under Guardianship—dealt with under Sec. 3	—	1	1
2.—Reported to the Local Authority from any reliable source and recognised by them as mentally defective, but as to whom no action under the Mental Deficiency Acts has been taken:—			
(a) Children between the ages of 14 and 16 years	—	—	—
Of whom, number, if any, under Voluntary Supervision	—	—	—
(b) All other cases	20	20	40
Of whom, number, if any, under Voluntary Supervision	20	20	40
Number of above cases on the Registers of Occupation and Industrial Centres	7	20	27
2.—Cases notified by Local Education Authorities (Section 2 (2) during the year 1943:—			

Method of disposal:—

Sent to Institutions (by Order) ...	—	—	—
Placed under Guardianship (by Order)	—	—	—
Placed under Statutory Supervision	1	1	2
Placed in “places of safety” ...	—	—	—
Died or removed from area ...	—	—	—
Action not yet taken:—			
(a) In receipt of poor relief ...	—	—	—
(b) Others	—	—	—
Total ...	1	1	2

3.—Of the total number of mental defectives known to the Local Authority:—

(a) Number who have given birth to children during 1943:—

(1) After marriage ...	Nil.
(2) While unmarried ...	Nil.

Males. Females.

(b) Number who have married during 1943 Nil. Nil.

The Occupation Centre for ineducable mental defectives continued to occupy premises in the Infants' Department of the Wolverhampton Street Schools.

Total number on register	27 (7 boys, 20 girls)
Under Statutory supervision ...	19
Under Voluntary supervision ...	7
On Licence from Institution ...	1

Blind.

Registrations at the end of 1943:—

	M.	F.	Ttl.
Children at School	4	1	5
Home Workers	—	1	1
Workshop Employees	6	2	8
Mental and other Cases in Institution	6	4	10
Employed elsewhere	3	2	5
Unemployables	32	36	68
Children not at School	1	—	1
Totals ...	52	46	98

Venereal Diseases.

Remarks have already been made on the working of Regulation 33B, and the following figures summarise the work done in the department. The figures are taken from the Form V.D. (R.) issued by the Ministry of Health.

	Dudley	Worcs.	Staffs.	West Bromwich.	Forces.	Total.
Syphilis ...	15	1	24	1	—	41
Soft Chancre ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gonorrhoea ...	16	5	33	—	—	54
Non-venereal and undiagnosed con- ditions ...	61	13	131	4	—	209
	—	—	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	92	19	188	5	—	304

Total number of
attendances of all
patients residing
in each area ...1685 315 2992 83 16 5091

Of these, the number of patients who ceased to attend while still in an infectious state are:—

Syphilis.			Gonorrhoea.	
Primary.	Secondary.		M.	F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Nil	2	2	5	1

The number of patients admitted for in-patient treatment was 2.

Infectious Diseases.

There was a very sharp increase in the number of cases of diphtheria compared with 1942. In addition, measles showed a high incidence. The staff changes mentioned below greatly handicapped the carrying out of immunisation, and the figures are really very creditable. It is, however, most essential that the benefits to be derived from protection against diphtheria are made known still more widely. It has become abundantly clear that the Ministry's drive for immunisation has resulted in a great decrease in the number of cases, and still more, in the number of deaths which would otherwise be our experience, as it must be remembered that the type of diphtheria in this area at all events, is very virulent with consequently an extremely serious effect on unprotected children.

The following table gives the notifications of the principal diseases over the past five years:—

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Scarlet Fever ...	104	78	38	76	89
Diphtheria ...	54	70	92	41	126
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	9	6	7	2	4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	5	4	4	4
Pneumonia ...	56	74	72	75	70
Erysipelas ...	16	9	7	11	13
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	1	—	—	—
Enteric ...	2	3	2	1	—
Poliomyelitis ...	—	3	—	1	1
Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	2	8	8	3	—
Whooping Cough ...	4	158	127	139	29
Measles ...	2	88	626	217	282

Diphtheria Immunisation.

A total of 1,883 children were immunised against diphtheria during the year. Of these, 769 were under 5 years of age and 1,114 over 5 years.

Tuberculosis.

The number on the register is as follows:—

	Males.	Females.	Total	Total
Pulmonary ...	209	194	1942.	1943.
Non-pulmonary ...	71	74	511	548

The demand for the accommodation of easily curable cases, which has been accentuated by the issue of Ministry of Health memo 266T combined with the general shortage of sanatorium beds and staff, means that chronic cases or those in which cure is unlikely are discharged more readily than before, with the result that they have to be accommodated in their own homes while in an infective condition.

In the report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector it will be seen that as far as possible priority is given to the re-housing of patients suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis from overcrowded or slum clearance houses, but this does not deal with all the problem, which is that of providing for these chronic infective cases who are by no means necessarily bedridden, and are quite capable, therefore, of spreading their infection to a wider extent than ever.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE TEMPORARY SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER.

To the Chairman and Members of the
School Medical Service Sub-Committee.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg herewith to present the Annual Report of the School Medical Officer for 1943.

The report is as brief as possible and only a few points require special mention.

They are:—

(1) There does not appear to be any indication that the nutrition of the children according to the Board's classification has deteriorated from last year, but the number of meals served was still further increased. This is very gratifying to those of us who, for several years, have tried to point out the great importance of adequate school meals in assuring a reasonable standard of nutrition and wellbeing among the children, as undoubtedly a well-cooked and tasty mid-day meal is of the greatest possible importance to the physical and mental condition of any child.

(2) There is a great demand for accommodation in Special Schools both for the physically and mentally defective. In the latter case the lack of accommodation is particularly unfortunate, as it means that the afflicted children do not get the tuition which is so especially important in their case.

A point in connection with the accommodation of physically defective children is that difficulty is still experienced in persuading parents to send their children away even to the open-air school, though the benefits the children derive from only one term there are evident.

(3) An important point which still seems to need special emphasis is the necessity for adequate sleep. It might be thought that people after the experience of the war years would have realised to the full the benefit of adequate sleep, but it is a common thing to see very young children still up even after 11 p.m., and though double summer time can be blamed to some extent, the parents are really at fault.

(4) Severe shortage of staff as well as illness have reduced the number of medical examinations. The retirement of Nurses Muirhead and Appleton after many years of most loyal service under the Local Education Authority, caused a considerable break in the authority's arrangements.

To the teachers grateful thanks are due for their help. In some quarters it is not sufficiently appreciated that the teachers can be of the greatest possible assistance, especially regarding postural, visual, or auditory defects, and that they are also in a better posi-

tion than an inspecting Doctor to observe any departure from a child's usual condition which may mark, for example, the commencement of acute rheumatism, since theirs is a **daily** assessment as opposed to that found by medical inspection, which naturally is by no means so frequent.

It is difficult for one who was not here to write about matters in which at the time he had not a direct interest, but reference must be made to the grave loss the service sustained by the retirement, through illness, of Dr. Wight. His interest in, and real hard work on behalf of, the school medical service are well known, and it was a very serious blow to the department when he had to retire, to the great regret of all with whom he came in contact.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

W. K. DUNSCOMBE,
Temporary School Medical Officer.

Medical Inspection.

The number of children inspected is given in the tables, as is also the percentage classified as C or D (subnormal or bad) according to the Board's classification. Since the figures of children inspected show a reduction due to shortage of staff it would be unfruitful to draw comparisons with previous years. It does not appear, however, that there has been a deterioration in the nutrition of the children generally.

Lousiness.

85,054 inspections of children in the schools were made, and 1,416 individual children were found to be carrying lice. This is very considerably more than for the previous year, and though no doubt in a number of instances this is the result of lack of appreciation of the importance of lice on the part of the mother, the increase may also be due to the fact that a number of women with children of school age are employed whole-time in war factories, with the result that they are less able to pay attention to the children's heads.

Skin Diseases.

The number of cases of skin diseases treated at the clinics continues high. Unfortunately it is not appreciated by the public how infectious impetigo is. Scabies is also far too prevalent.

Minor Ailments.

The total number of defects treated at minor ailments clinics was 5,100. This figure is substantially more than last year's total, and once again skin diseases accounted for a large number of the defects.

Diseases of the Eye.

248 children were refracted at the ophthalmic clinic and glasses were prescribed in 135 cases.

Treatment for other defects and diseases of the eye was carried out in 50 cases.

Diseases of Ear, Nose and Throat.

Of 544 children with some defects of this special region 340 were referred to the Specialist. 170 cases of Tonsils and/or Adenoids were referred for operative treatment.

Dental Defects.

The School Dental Surgeon presents the following report:—

“An examination of the various statistical tables reveals that the level of the dental work remains substantially as it was in the pre-war period, in spite of the various difficulties which have been encountered.

“A survey of the statistics might suggest that the amount of conservative work carried out in the Netherton area is rather

low, but owing to the distribution of work in the borough it is not an economic proposition to hold more than a limited number of conservative sessions at this clinic. In most instances, therefore, arrangements have been made for Netherton children to have fillings done at Dudley, and they are included in these returns.

“The Holly Hall tables indicate the treatment carried out for Holly Hall children at the Dudley Clinic.

“All the elementary school children in the Borough, including the Intermediate School and School for Deaf, were as usual examined during the year. A large increase in the number of children under the age of 5 years examined and treated was observed. The fact that in pre-war years these children would normally have been treated as Maternity and Child Welfare cases explains the decrease in the treatment of “pre-school” children in these returns.

“The orthodontic scheme initiated in the early days of the war has expanded steadily and has proved very successful. As some indication of the extent of this work, it might be stated that, judged by private practice standards, this work alone is sufficient to occupy the entire time of one dental officer. A number of the more complex cases were referred to the Orthodontic Department of the Birmingham General Dispensary, as we have neither the time nor the necessary equipment to carry out the treatment.

“Apart from the children already mentioned who have received treatment, a number of High School, Grammar School, Nursery School, and Mentally Defective cases have received attention.

Orthodontic Service.

“During the year a total number of 206 cases have received treatment as follows:—

11 appliances, 7 surgical cases requiring after treatment,
143 surgical cases not requiring after treatment, and
45 cases requiring exercises or correction of habits.

Nursery School.

“Nine children each made one attendance, and the following work was carried out:—

3 fillings in temporary teeth, 6 extractions of temporary teeth,
6 general anaesthetics administered, and 3 other operations
were carried out.

Mentally Defectives.

“Seven cases made seven attendances. Eight permanent and two temporary teeth were extracted. In each instance the work was carried out under general anaesthesia.”

D. NELSON,
Dental Surgeon.

Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

The total number of attendances at the orthopaedic clinic was 187.

1,788 attendances were made for massage and electrical treatment.

Ultra-Violet Light Clinic.

The total attendances by school children was 629.

Infectious Diseases.

Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever still continue to be important problems and the number immunised against Diphtheria is really very good indeed considering the shortage of Doctors for the most part of the year. A total of 1,114 children were protected, either by A.P.T. in the case of children of 8 years or under, while those over that age received injections of T.A.F.

The following table shows the incidence of the above-mentioned diseases in children of school age:—

DIPHTHERIA			SCARLET FEVER		
Ages	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Deaths	Ages	No. of Cases Notified	No. of Deaths
2-5	30	4	2-5	21	Nil
5-10	51	4	5-10	35	Nil
10-15	22	2	10-15	11	Nil

Tuberculosis.

All over the country increasing attention is being paid to the incidence of the pulmonary form in children. In this connection the evil influence of broncho-pneumonia following measles and/or whooping cough is still in my opinion insufficiently appreciated. It is therefore important to note that 14 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis occurred in the age group 5—15 years.

Provision of School Meals and Milk.

The scheme for supplying school meals was continued and is commented on earlier in the report. The average number of school meals supplied daily is 1,090.

STATISTICAL TABLES 1943.

Table I.

Medical Inspections of Children attending Public Elementary Schools.

A. Routine Medical Inspections.

(1) Number of inspections in the prescribed groups:

Entrants	...	...	...	330
Second Age Group	...	...	...	23
Third Age Group	...	...	...	120
Total	...	...	...	473

(2) Number of other routine inspections—3.

B. Other Inspections.

Number of special inspections and re-inspections: 2,393.

Table II.

Classification of the nutrition of children inspected during the year in the routine age groups:—

Number of Children Inspected	A (Excellent)		B (Normal)		C (Slightly subnormal)		D (Bad)	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
473	28	5.9	355	75.	83	17.5	7	1.5

Table III.**Group I. Treatment of Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness).**

Total number of defects treated or under treatment during the year under the Authority's Scheme ... 5100

Group II. Treatment of Defective Vision and Squint.

		Under the Authority's Scheme
Errors of refraction (including squint)	...	248
Other defects or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I.)	...	50
Total	...	298

Number of children for whom spectacles were

(a) Prescribed	...	...	...	...	135
(b) Obtained	...	...	...	...	125

Group III. Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

Referred for operative treatment	...	...	170
Received other forms of treatment	...	...	170
Total number treated	...	...	340

Table IV.
Dental Inspection and Treatment.

(1) Number of Children Inspected by Dentist.

(a) Routine Age Groups:

AGE	5 and under	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14 and over	TOTAL
No.	729	858	959	961	771	782	812	811	765	233	7681

(b) Specials 1626

(c) Total (routine and
special) 9307

(2) No. found to re-
quire treatment ... 4893

(3) No. Actually treated 3918

(4) Attendances made
by children for
treatment 5328

(5) Half-days devoted to:
Inspection 34
Treatment 748

Total 782

(6) Fillings:

Permanent Teeth ... 2326
Temporary Teeth ... 282

Total 2608

(7) Extractions:

Permanent Teeth ... 868
Temporary Teeth ... 3540

Total 4408

(8) Administrations of
general anaesthetics 3120

(9) Other operations:
Permanent Teeth ... 1093
Temporary Teeth ... 395

Total 1488

Table V.
Verminous Conditions.

- (1) Average number of visits per school made during the
year by the Nurses or other authorised persons ... 38
- (2) Total number of examinations of children in the schools
by School Nurses or other authorised persons ... 85054
- (3) Number of individual children found unclean 1416
- (4) Number of individual children cleansed under Section
87 (2) and (3) of the Education Act, 1921 —
- (5) Number of cases in which legal proceedings were taken:
(a) Under the Education Act, 1921 —
(b) Under School Attendance Bye-laws —

Table VI.**Blind and Deaf Children.**

Number of totally or almost totally blind and deaf children who are NOT at the present time receiving education suitable for their special needs.

	1	2	3
	At a Public Elementary School	At an Institu- tion other than a Special School	At no School or Institution
Blind Children	—	—	—
Deaf Children	—	—	—

SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**Table I.****A—Routine Medical Inspection.**

Entrants	73
Intermediates	23
Leavers	5
Total	101

B—Other Inspections.

Number of Special Inspections	—
Number of re-inspections	—
Total	—

Table II.

DEFECTS OR DISEASE	ROUTINE INSPECTIONS	
	No. for Treatment	No for Observation
Skin Disease	1	—
Eye Disease	2	—
Nose and Throat	1	7
Deformities	1	5
Other Defects	1	3
Total	6	15

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR AND CLEANSING
SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1943.**

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

The fifth war-time Report, and the fifteenth Annual Report of the Sanitary Department services since my appointment is of necessity again a record of vital statistics only.

In previous reports, records of reduction in both Inspectorial and Clerical staff have been noted, and in 1943 the working staff was at the lowest possible minimum, and with four exceptions, all temporary personnel were without previous sanitary administrative experience.

The loss of efficiency through unfamiliarity with duties and without previous training must be obvious.

Such changes or items of importance for record and report as have occurred are primarily related to variance in separate service activities as against previous years.

Salvage yield for 1943/4 was less by 411 tons as against 1942/3. Income was less by £1,847, but exceeded expenditure by £629.

Public Cleansing was routine, with a lowered average collection of house refuse, and a lowered standard of Street Cleansing service. Ashbins were emptied on an average of once in two weeks in summer and once in three weeks in winter.

Housing action was confined to the investigation of complaints. Some repairs were achieved and thanks to the joint control of the letting of Council houses by Sanitary and Housing Departments, relief of overcrowding and re-housing of Tuberculous patients continued through casual vacancies as in past war years.

The only other notable difference in the year's work is the increase in action taken to abate nuisances. The reduction in Civil Defence duties enabled more inspections to be made and more notices to be served than in previous war years.

As in previous years, I have to thank both staff and workmen for their very good help in very difficult times.

(A)—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.**Numerical Summary for 1943.****Sanitary Inspection of the Area:**

Record of Inspections and results.

Inspections made with respect to:	No. of Inspec.	Nuisances or defects reported.	Re-visits made re abatement.	Nuisances or defects remedied.
Houses under P.H.A. ...	387	598	1577	572
Drainage Work ...	143	59	428	40
Closets ...	25	115	221	153
Ashplaces ...	576	523	753	336
Yards, Courts, etc. ...	7	6	24	2
Overcrowding* ...	49	—	13	—
Miscellaneous† ...	768	71	595	113

Visits relating to:—

Public Cleansing Services ...	13
Infectious Disease ...	210
Interviews with owners and traders (District Inspectors only) ...	791

* See Report on Overcrowding on page 26.

† Including visit and inspection figures given below under separate headings.

Notices Served.

	Informal	Statutory	Total
Notices Served ...	531	133	664
Notices Complied with ...	434	53	487
Choked drains cleansed by Department's drain cleanser			157
Choked Water Closets cleansed by Department's drain cleanser ...			61

Infectious Disease.

Number of cases investigated and necessary action taken	210
Number of disinfections carried out ...	235
Number of Library Books disinfected ...	26

Fish Frying Premises.

Number of Fish Frying Premises on the Register ...	69
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No applications have been received for the establishment of Fish Frying Premises during the year. Existing premises were kept under observation.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act.

Premises receiving attention ...	89
Number of visits and re-visits made ...	565
Number of baits laid ...	18850
Number of baits taken ...	11220
Number of rats actually caught ...	265
Number of premises where attention has been terminated after satisfactory service ...	63

Court Proceedings	3
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Disinfestation.

Number of families whose furniture was fumigated prior to removal into a Council House	9
Number of Council Houses found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of Council Houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	16
Number of other houses found to be infested	...	...	...	...	...	11
Number of other houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	11

Factories.

Number of factories with mechanical power inspected	...	...	...	...	...	26
Number of visits and re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	75
Number of factories without mechanical power inspected	...	...	...	...	...	18
Number of visits and re-visits	...	...	...	...	...	7
Number of defects remedied	...	...	...	...	...	83

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits and re-visits to Hotels, Public Houses, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	...	20
Number of Urinals reconstructed or improved	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Pharmacy and Poisons Act.

Number of applications dealt with and premises visited	Nil
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Shops Act, 1934.

Shops inspected and recorded	1
Notices served requiring work to be done	Nil
Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(B)—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(For the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1943).

House Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Number of Houses and other premises to which collection service was given	...	...	...	...	...	16200
Number of Ashbins cleansed per week	...	...	...	...	...	8062
Total Refuse collected in Tons excluding night soil	...	...	...	...	...	12830
Gross cost of House and Trade Refuse Collection and Disposal service	...	...	...	...	...	£12721
Gross Income excluding Salvage	...	...	...	...	...	£193
Net Expenditure	...	...	...	...	...	£12528
Total Net Cost per premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	15/6
Total cost per ton—collection	...	...	...	...	...	16/-
Total cost per ton—in the control of tips	...	...	...	...	...	3/10

Street Cleansing.

Mileage of Streets Cleansed:—

At least once daily	8.07
Three times weekly	8.57
Twice weekly	15.67
Once weekly	39.86
Total mileage cleansed	72.17
Net Cost	£5825
Net Cost per 10,000 square yards cleansed	14/4
Net Cost per 1,000 of population	£97

SALVAGE REPORT.

Years ending 31st March, 1943 and 1944.

MATERIALS	MATERIAL SOLD				MATERIAL IN STOCK				Total Weight Collected (Tons)		EXPENDITURE £		
	Weight (Tons)		Value £		Weight (Tons)		Value £						
	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944	1943	1944		1943	1944
Paper	583	387	3733	2531	6	5	44	32	562	386	Wages ...	4309	4143
Rags	65	57	680	548	—	—	—	—	73	57	Transport	836	707
Metals	387	365	746	679	130	119	227	203	410	354	Bonus ...	637	597
Glass	165	83	761	458	22	5	88	40	181	71	Materials	1088	299
Bones etc. ...	15	14	59	61	—	—	—	—	15	14	Other L.A.'s	237	115
Kitchen Waste	763	674	2325	2209	—	—	—	—	758	674			
Rubber	20	2	33	44	—	10	—	25	—	12			
TOTALS ...	1998	1587	8337	6490	158	139	359	305	1999	1568		7107	5861

(C)—HOUSING.

Progress return figures up to year ending 31/3/44.

Slum Clearance.

Houses demolished during the year	4
Houses demolished from 1930 to 31/3/44	1452

Individually Unfit Houses.

Houses demolished during the year	11
Houses closed under closing orders during the year ...	Nil
Total houses demolished from 1930 to 31/3/44	912
Total houses closed from 1930 to 31/3/44	65
Total houses made fit from 1930 to 31/3/44	580

Summary.

Total houses approved for demolition but not yet demolished:—

Slum Clearance	...	...	...	325			
Individually Unfit	...	...	...	131	...	...	456

Overcrowding.

Number of cases abated during the year	...	...	...	9
Number of new cases reported during the year	...	...	...	46
Total cases remaining unabated at 31/3/44	...	...	...	443
Number of cases abated from June, 1936 to 31/3/44	...	...	...	1120

Re-housing.

Number of families re-housed in Council Houses during the year 1/4/43 to 31/3/44 through the Department:

Overcrowding	...	...	...	9			
Unfit houses	...	...	...	5			
T.B. cases	...	...	...	7	...	...	21
Number of Council Houses erected during the year 1943							Nil
Number of families in receipt of financial assistance during 1943 under Housing Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	349

(D)—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**Milk and Dairies.**

Number of registered retailers	...	...	...	...	...	375
Number of registered producers, dairymen or wholesalers						47
Number of licences issued under the Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	10

Report on Analysis of Milk Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination and Biological Test.

	BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION						BIOLOGICAL TEST		
	No. of Samples	Methylene Blue Test		Coliform Test		Bacteriological Count	No of Samples	Pos.	Neg.
		S.	U.	S.	U.	S.	U.		
Designated	3	—	—	1	2	1	2	—	—
Undesignated	21	8	13	10	11	—	—	5	5

S.—Satisfactory U.—Unsatisfactory.

Food and Drugs.

	Milk	Other Foods
Number of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act	26	15
Number unsatisfactory	1	—

Public Health Meat Regulations.

Number of animals notified for slaughter	3246
Number of animals inspected	3242
Total weight of meat condemned ... 3 tons 8 cwts. 1 qr. 10 lbs.	

Visits.

Visits to slaughterhouses	391
General food premises—shops and markets	226
Food preparing premises	13
Visits and re-visits to cowsheds, dairies and milk shops ...	92

I am,

Yours obediently,

S. SKITT,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

Deputy Controller, Civil Defence.

